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SRI A. RAMASAMY THEVAR:—" Being one of the victims of such thefts, and as such thefts are going on even today, may I request the Government to take extra precautions to prevent such thefts occurring in future? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" Sir, firstly, it is better not to have any valuable property in these temporary lodgings. Secondly, if we have any, we must keep an eye over them. Thirdly, when we leave the room we must carry them with us." (Laughter.)

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD:—"నారూములో కూడా అపహరించడం జరిగింది. హాస్టలులో నియమించబడినటువంటి చిన్న నౌకర్లు ఇటువంటిపనులు చేయకుండా ప్రధానమంత్రి ఏమిచర్య తీసుకొంటారు?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" మీరిది ముఖ్యమైన విషయమని అనుకొంటె దీనికి నోటీసు ఇవ్వాలి."

Memorial from the Pensioners' Association, Cannanore.

11 a.m. *158 Q.—SRI T. VISWANATHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government received a memorial from 216 members of the Pensioners' Association, Cannanore, requesting restoration of the cut in the rates of the dearness allowance and for other reliefs; and

(b) if so, what action the Government have taken?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" (a) & (b) Yes. The requests were—

(i) To rescind the order of cut in the rates of dearness allowance to pensioners and to enhance the rates, so as to bring them to the level of those granted to the non-gazetted servants in active service.

(ii) To extend similar relief to retired non-gazetted servants drawing a pension of above Rs. 110.

(iii) To extend the educational concessions granted to the dependants of military men and to the children of pensioners also.

" The existing rates of dearness allowance granted to pensioners of this Government drawing pensions not exceeding Rs. 100 per mensem follow those adopted by the Government of India and all other State Governments. The rates were enhanced in 1947 without reference to the rates of dearness allowance granted to pensioners of the Central Government or other Provincial Governments and considerable additional expenditure was involved in the enhancement. These rates were reduced to the old level with effect from the 1st January 1948, 4½ or 5 years ago.

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"Neither the Government of India nor any of the State Governments have sanctioned temporary increase to pensions exceeding Rs. 100 per mensem. It was considered by the Government that there was no justification to sanction to pensioners dearness allowance at the same rates as those adopted in the case of Government servants.

"The educational concessions referred to in the petition were intended only for the benefit of children and dependants of Defence Services personnel and could not be extended to others. Those concessions which were previously granted to dependants of military men at the expense of the Provincial Government have since been withdrawn. The Post-war Services Reconstruction Fund Committee is now meeting the entire expenditure involved in the grant of these concessions."

Sri T. VISWANATHAM:—"In view of the rise in the cost of living since 1948 and also in view of the fact that these petitions have been pending since 1948, will the Government at least consider the restoration?"

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"The increase is not only for the pensioners but for the entire community. So we cannot consider the increase in dearness allowance to pensioners alone."

Sri T. VISWANATHAM:—"But the pensioners have got to live, Sir. In view of the difficulty to which the pensioners are put due to the cut effected in the rate of their dearness allowance, will the Government specifically reconsider their case?"

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"The existing rates of dearness allowance granted to pensioners of this Government follow those adopted by the Government of India and all other State Governments. The rates of dearness allowance were enhanced in 1947 without reference to the rates of the Centre and other State Governments. The rates were reduced to the old level with effect from 1st January 1948, i.e., about five years ago, when I think, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition was a member of the party in charge of the Government."

Sri T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR:—"In view of the fact that a cut in the pensioners' dearness allowance is considered a '*dattapaharam*' (taking back a gift) and a sin according to moral principle, and in view of the fact that there are pensioners who are getting pensions in one digit, will the Government at least reconsider the restoration of the cut?"

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"I am really pleased to hear the hon. Member talking on moral principles; but that is only a matter of opinion. Here we are concerned with rules and regulations. As such we cannot consider the hon. Member's request."

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Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" In view of the fact that the dearness allowance of Government servants has been increased since 1948, will the Government restore the cut effected in the dearness allowance of pensioners? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" In view of our acute financial position, we are not in a position to increase the dearness allowance of pensioners."

Sri PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU —"వంద రూపాయలకు పైన పెన్షన్ తీసుకొనేవారికి ఈ cut ను restore చేయడం జరిగినదా? ఈ cut ను restore చేసిన తరువాత Central Government పెన్షనర్ల కిచ్చే dearness allowances rate కు Madras Government ఇచ్చే dearness allowance rate కు ఏమైనా వ్యత్యాసమున్నదా? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I want notice, Sir."

Memorial from the Pensioners' Association, Cannanore.

* 159 Q.—Sri K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government received a memorial, dated the 26th October 1952, signed by the President of the Pensioners' Association, Cannanore, requesting the restoration of the cut in the dearness allowance imposed in G.O. No. 45, Finance (Pension), dated the 22nd January 1947, and if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes. The Government considered it unnecessary to restore the cut made in 1948, as no other State Government or the Central Government were paying dearness allowance to pensioners at the higher rates sanctioned by this Government in 1947. The restoration of the higher rates would involve considerable extra expenditure of a recurring nature, and the Government see no justification for it, under the present financial conditions."

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" The Hon. Minister for Finance has just now stated that in view of the acute financial position of the Government they are not in a position to restore the cut in the dearness allowance of pensioners. May we have an assurance from the Hon. Minister that no further cut (if not restoration) will be imposed on their pension? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I cannot give any assurance. Everything will be decided according to the money available with the Government."

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" Is there any irreducible minimum which should be given to pensioners whatever salary they might have been drawing while on active service? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" A separate question may be put."